

1/ Judiciary

1 August 1953

Memorandum for: The Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

1. The House and Senate conferees have reached agreement in connection with the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, and the House has approved the Conference Report. It is expected that the Senate will approve this report today.

2. The Senate has adopted the House provision that the program be administered through the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs of the Department of State rather than establishing a new group to carry out this work. The conferees agreed on a total of 214,000 as the maximum figure, but this is in no way a mandate to issue the full number of visas. Stress was laid on the fact that these figures were maximum limitations and not quotas to be filled. It was also pointed out that no effort should be made to induce aliens to seek entry into the United States under the law.

3. The Act carries the proviso that no alien shall be issued a visa or be admitted into the United States unless there shall have first been a thorough investigation and written report by such investigative agencies of the Government as the President shall designate. There is, of course, a possibility that the President may designate CIA as one of the investigative agencies for this purpose. It is generally felt that

[REDACTED]

4. The time period of the Act has been extended so that visas may be issued until 31 December 1956.

5. Attached herewith is a table of the agreed on figures of visas which may be issued in the various categories.

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Walter L. Pforzheimer
Legislative Counsel

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Attachment

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